

# THE HARTFORD HERALD.

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40th YEAR.

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NO. 8

## WIFE MURDERERS DIE IN THE CHAIR

Chirka and Rasico Pay  
Death Penalty.

## CHILDREN BID PAPA GOODBYE

Rasico's Crime the Most Brutal in the Annals Of  
Criminology.

## A BROTHER HIS ONLY VISITOR

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 20.—Harry Rasico, of Vincennes, and John Chirka, of Indiana Harbor, both wife-murderers, were executed at the State Prison, Michigan City, shortly after midnight.

Rasico was placed in the electric chair at 12:07 a. m., and was dead eight minutes later. Chirka was placed in the chair at 12:30 a. m. and was pronounced dead eight minutes later.

They were the first men to be electrocuted in Indiana.

The condemned men spent their last hours on earth in receiving members of their families and in advising with the Rev. John Blackman, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Early in the afternoon, Mrs. Gabriel Tode, of Gary, brought the three younger children of Chirka to say farewell to their father. The children are Edith, 12; Mary, 8; and Felix, 5 years old. The children were warmly embraced by their father both on arriving and departing, but he scarcely spoke to them. As they were leaving, baby Felix begged his papa to return home with them, saying: "You not been home with us since mamma died."

At this remark tears ran down the condemned man's cheeks, but he did not speak. The interview lasted but fifteen minutes and then the weeping children were returned to Gary.

Harry Rasico, had but one visitor, his brother, who lives in Vincennes. The brother remained with him but a short time and left. The bodies of the condemned men will not be turned over to their families, but will be buried in the prison cemetery.

John Chirka shot and killed his wife after they had quarreled because of the attentions she was alleged to have bestowed on boarders at their home in Indiana Harbor. His attorneys, confident of his acquittal, on the grounds of insanity, rejected an offer of life imprisonment for Chirka if he would plead guilty. After a trial of four days the jury returned a verdict of guilty and fixed the punishment at death. The result of the trial came as a surprise, not only to the attorneys for the defense, but to the prosecuting attorney, J. H. Patterson, and his deputy, Ralph W. Ross. Farmers made up the jury.

The crime for which Harry Rasico paid the penalty with his life, the murder of his wife and little son, was one of the most brutal ever recorded in the history of the Terre Haute police department. It is not in the State. According to his own story, told without restraint and with a sneering bravado, he murdered his wife when she was on her knees in front of him praying and begging for life. Then, turning his smoking revolver upon his little babe, he killed it without remorse. That the crime was deliberately planned, Rasico admitted when arraigned in Circuit Court, declaring that he had been planning the deed for six months, he had become jealous.

He told Judge Fortune he did not regret the deed. He refused counsel and pleaded guilty. In passing sentence, Judge Fortune told the condemned man that his crime deserved the extreme penalty of death. Rasico retorted:

"You ought to give it to me."

While in jail awaiting his transfer to the State prison at Michigan City, Rasico's four little children, in custody of an uncle, visited him. He turned away and refused to talk to them. An insanity commission, appointed by order of Judge Fortune, found him to be rational.

Chirka was first sentenced to die January 9 and Rasico January 16, but Gov. Raiston extended the time to February 20. Much pressure was brought to bear on him for a commutation of sentences to life imprisonment, but he gave decision that the law must take its course.

## ENDED LIFE OVER VOW OF EARLY GIRLHOOD

Philadelphia, Penn., Feb. 21.—Miss Letitia Rider, 48 years old, took her life to-day by inhaling illuminating gas after having brooded for months over a girlhood vow never to marry, which she had kept too well.

Getting on in years, she was alone in the world. Since last May she had lived the life of a recluse in her room. She seldom spoke to her neighbors and when she did, she told them of her mistaken notions of life when she was a girl.

When the woman did not answer a neighbor's knock to-day he investigated and found her dead in bed. She had stuffed the cracks of window and door with cloth and turned on the gas.

## ORATORICAL CONTEST HELD AT FORDSVILLE

Was a Success—An Elizabethtown Boy Carried Off  
The Prize.

Fordsville, Ky., Feb. 23, 1914. The Fourth Congressional Oratorical Association held its annual contest at Fordsville last Friday evening at eight o'clock. The following schools were represented: Fordsville, Elizabethtown, Hardinsburg, Leitchfield and Brandenburg. The program was as follows:

J. W. Frymire, Brandenburg, subject, "The Stars and Stripes." Joy Rogers, Leitchfield, subject, "A Shadow of the Past and Present." Earl Thomas, Hardinsburg, subject, "The Triumvirate of Life." Leman Whitler, Fordsville, subject, "My Hero in War." Warren Keith, Elizabethtown, subject, "The Ages Call, the Heroes Answer."

Judges: Miller Holland, Owensboro, Ky.; Prof. O. E. Beard, Whitesville, Ky.; Prof. Kirk, Central City, Ky. Chairman, Roy Foreman.

The speakers all did well, but the judges decided that the winner of the contest was Mr. Warren Keith, of Elizabethtown. Each school should be proud of its representative.

The Fordsville Orchestra was on hand with the very best of music. We want to take this occasion to thank our local Orchestra for the splendid assistance which it has rendered our school on numerous occasions.

There are several other High Schools in the Fourth Congressional District that should be members of this Association. Such contests as these not only train young men in the art of oratory and debate but also bring the High Schools in closer contact with each other.

Hardinsburg brought about fifty school boys and girls, while each of the other schools were well represented, thus bringing together a large number of boys and girls from the different High Schools.

## CHARGED WITH LEADING YOUNG GIRLS INTO VICE

Evansville, Ind., Feb. 22.—Mayor Benjamin Bosse to-day started a crusade against private vice in Evansville. He says with the aid of Chief of Police Edgar Schmidt, he has secured positive evidence showing that three well known professional men here have been luring young girls to their offices. The Mayor says these three men have been warned to leave the city this week and not to return again during his administration. He says the men will be arrested unless they leave. Their names have not been made public.

## Will Buy Bloodhounds.

Henderson, Ky., Feb. 23.—Bloodhounds will be bought by Henderson county and used for trailing alleged criminals. There have been so many robberies, holdups and incendiary fires in Henderson county the last year that the Fiscal Court, urged by the Sheriff, has decided to try bloodhounds as a means of checking crime.

It is easy for a good man to make a bad break.

## A NEW REPUBLIC IS BEING FORMED

Northern Mexico To Secede, 'Tis Said.

## STATES ALONG U. S. BORDER

Far Ahead of South in Progress—Population Is Not Similar.

## THE NORTH IS INDEPENDENT

Chihuahua, Mex., Feb. 22.—A plan for the formation in Northern Mexico of a new republic is now being perfected, according to persistent rumors which were in circulation here to-day.

Certain rebel leaders intimate that the delay of the Constitutionalist attack on Torreón is due to the scheme for the divorce of Southern Mexico. While Gen. Carranza, civil head of the revolution, and Gen. Villa, the military leader, disclaim any part in a plan which does not include the overthrow of Huerta, it is believed by many here that the proposition for an independent republic is being seriously considered by them and others.

Reports emanating from Mexico City that the Federal garrison at Torreón has been strengthened to a point where it can make a formidable resistance, have added impetus to the idea of a separation of the North from the South, and Gen. Carranza's coming to Chihuahua from the Pacific Coast is looked on as possibly indicating an early adoption of the plan.

Many rebel leaders profess to believe that whatever the outcome of the present revolution the North and South will not soon be completely amalgamated. The North, they assert, already is politically independent and has adopted a progressive attitude wholly at variance to conditions in the South, where two factions—the indifferent and the adherents of the old Diaz regime—predominate.

The territory which, it is said, might be formed into a separate republic embraces the five States along the United States border—Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, with possibly the inclusion of Sinaloa. The Huerta army has been driven out of practically all of this territory, the chief remaining strongholds of the Federals being at Tampico on the East; Monterey, Saltillo and Torreón on the South; Guaymas on the West, and Nuevo Laredo and Piedras Negras on the North.

Asserting that revolutionary leaders may have to content themselves with their victories in the North, officials high in the rebel government point out that one reason for the overthrow of President Madero was that he represented the ideals of the North at the seat of the government in the South, where progress has not kept pace with the Northern States.

## GOVERNMENT READY TO MANUFACTURE RADIUM

Washington, Feb. 21.—The Federal Government is ready to go ahead manufacturing radium, Director Holmes, of the Mines Bureau, to-day told the Senate Committee considering the Walsh bill to empower the Government to do so. The only problem, he said, was an adequate supply of ore.

Dr. Holmes estimated the Government could produce radium at less than half the present price and at the same time confer a benefit on the mining industry by encouraging operations. The Government, he said, would not keep its process secret.

## CITY'S STEAM ROLLER CAUSE OF \$30,000 SUIT

Cynthiana, Ky., Feb. 21.—The regular term of the Harrison Circuit Court will begin on Monday. There are fifty-six cases on the docket, the principal one being the suit of Riley Hill and wife vs. the City of Cynthiana for damages amounting to \$30,000. The suit grows out of alleged injuries received by Mrs. Hill and her little son last May when their horse became frightened at a steam roller which was being used on the streets of this city.

## THREE SLAIN BY TRAIN ROBBERS

Passengers Held Up On  
Great Northern.

## TERRIFIC GRAPPLE IN COACH

Between Passengers and Outlaw—His Accomplice  
Shoots Out Lights.

## SLAYER GATHERS THE PURSES

Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 20.—Three passengers on a Northern Pacific train bound for Vancouver, B. C., who resisted three bandits to-night, were shot dead.

Thomas B. Wadsworth, a Canadian Pacific conductor, of Vancouver, B. C.; R. L. Lee, of Bremerton, Wash., and H. R. Aderson, a traveling salesman, of Vancouver, B. C., were the men killed.

The bandits boarded the train at Burlington, a few miles south of the place where they attacked the passengers in the day coaches.

The robbers rode in the smoking car until they were ready to act. They then went into the vestibule between the smoking car and the day coach, tied handkerchiefs about their faces and entered the day coach with drawn revolvers.

Most of the passengers confronted by the bandits threw up their hands, but three men attempted to resist. They were killed instantly.

Two of the men had gone on through the day coach. One stood at the rear door, while a second stepped into the vestibule.

As the three men killed grappled with one bandit, the robber at the end of the car began shooting into the ceiling and put out the lights.

The robber, grappling with the three men, quickly fired ten shots. Lee was not killed by the first shot and tried to crawl behind the rear seat. The bandit kept firing, and five or six shots entered his back. None of the shots fired by the other bandit hit any one, but he terrorized the passengers. A half dozen women fainted.

The robber who killed the men turned back to the front of the coach. As he passed along several women held their purses out in the aisles. He gathered up several and ran. The bandits left the train together as it came to a stop from a signal given by the conductor who had heard the shooting from another coach.

Posses were hurriedly formed and a special train was sent to the scene, but on account of the wilderness of surrounding country little hope is held out for the capture of the outlaws.

It is thought they may have taken a boat and gone to the San Juan Islands, as the holdup took place on the edge of Bellingham Bay.

## DAMAGES FOR POLLUTING THE WATERS OF A CREEK

Henderson, Ky., Feb. 21.—The jury in the case of twenty farmers for \$40,100 damages against the Kentucky Peerless Distilling company, Henry Kraver, president, and the city of Henderson, returned a verdict Thursday morning in favor of all the plaintiffs except Claude Gudgeon, for \$7,099.86.

The suit was for damages alleged to be due for the polluting of the waters of Canoe creek, running near where the farmers live.

## "HOLINESS" PEOPLE ARE UNDER SERIOUS CHARGES

Newton, Ill., Feb. 21.—Five more persons were found guilty in connection with the whipping of two boys at the Holiness chapel near here. Harold Cummins, Allen Lyons, and Anna Emory were fined \$65 and Frank Emory and Rosa Peck were fined \$85. Lyons testified that he and other members of the sect were beaten when they became sanctified.

P. D. Lyons, leader of the Holiness sect; Cameron and Frank Cummins and Mrs. Vantrees, who have been convicted of being ring-leaders in the beating, to-day were held under \$4,000 bonds to appear in the Circuit Court to answer a charge of assault to commit murder. They are being kept in jail guarded

by special deputy sheriffs to prevent mob violence.

The Holiness chapel, situated in the country southwest of town, was destroyed by fire last night. It is suspected some person, angered by disclosures made at the recent trials, used a torch on it.

## FARMER CONVICTED OF SLAYING WIFE AND CHILD

Gadsden, Ala., Feb. 21.—William Wilson, aged 35, a farmer, was found guilty by a jury in Circuit Court at Oneonta, Blount county, of the murder of his wife and 6-year-old child.

It is alleged Wilson killed his wife and child, dragged their bodies to the bank of the Warrior river and hid them among the rocks and later set fire to the brush. Months later the charred skeletons were discovered and suspicion pointed to Wilson. The evidence was largely circumstantial, but more than 100 witnesses testified. An appeal probably will be taken.

Wilson's second wife was with him at the trial and has been loyal to him in the face of conviction.

## BIG CHANGES IN THE PRISON PAROLE LAW

Approval of Governor Necessary  
Before The Parole Is  
Granted.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 20.—Radical changes in the prison parole law are provided for in the Helm bill that passed the Senate late this afternoon by the vote of 20 to 1. The dissenting vote was cast by Senator C. F. Montgomery, of Casey county, author of a rival measure that had just been defeated. Provided the Helm bill becomes a law, the approval of the Governor will be necessary before a parole can be issued. His consent also will have to be secured before a parole violator may be returned to the penitentiary.

The Senate also passed the Helm bill, amending the indeterminate sentence law, which recently was held to be defective by the Court of Appeals on the ground that it conferred judicial power on the Prison Commissioners, whose functions are purely administrative.

An emergency clause is contained in the Helm Parole Bill. Besides providing for an additional employment agent at \$1,200 a year, it creates the office of secretary to the Prison Commission at a salary \$1,800 a year. It increases from five to eight years the period a person sentenced to prison for life must serve before he may become eligible for parole.

The essential difference between the Helm bill and the Montgomery measure, that was offered as a substitute and voted down, was that the latter provided that any prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence should be automatically entitled to a parole when he had served his minimum term and had for nine months previous observed all the rules and regulations of the prison.

Considerable interest was manifested in the Prison Parole Bill and the indeterminate measure for the reason that Lieut. Gov. McDermott drafted the Helm bills covering the subjects and Attorney General Garrett drew the Montgomery bills, both of which were defeated.

## CROSSES SEA TO WED; FIANCE DRUNK; ALL OFF

Greensburg, Pa., Feb. 21.—To marry a childhood sweetheart, Katharine Hanftz traveled all the way from Germany and arrived in Wilpen, this county, yesterday, bringing with her a dowry of \$3,000.

When she left the train at Wilpen her fiancé was there to meet her, but he had started to celebrate the wedding too soon and had with him a glorious "souse."

That was something the young German maiden had not included in her calculations for the future. She decided to keep her little fortune to herself, rather than take a chance with a drunken husband, and took the next train back to New York, intimating that she would return to her native land after looking over the sights of the metropolis a bit.

The \$1,000 ear of corn has been stolen from the Agricultural exhibit at Dallas, Texas.

Sixty-five divorce cases were tried in one day in Chicago.

## "WAIT" PROGRAM AN OPEN FAILURE

Is Report From Texas  
War Zone.

## EXECUTION OF ENGLISHMAN

Has Aroused Intense Feeling  
Along Texas Border—Is  
Called Murder.

## VILLA'S STORY NOT CREDITED

Washington, Feb. 21.—Secretary Bryan has ordered a far-reaching investigation of the killing of William S. Benton, a British subject, at Juarez, Mexico. It was announced to-day that until all the facts were gathered from all sources, and transmitted to Great Britain, the State Department would not express an opinion.

Explanations by Villa to Thomas D. Edwards, George C. Carothers, and American consular representatives at Juarez, together with the court martial record, will be supplemented by further information.

The State Department advises late to-day, giving Villa's version were, that Benton was armed, and personally quarreled with Villa, who was disarmed. He was tried by court martial and hung for attempting Villa's life. Feeling is more apprehensive among the diplomats for the safety of the foreign population. Attacks on the President's watchful waiting policy are growing stronger. It is feared that the lid clamped on the Senate over Mexico will blow off, and that the question will be discussed on the floor.

Robert V. Pesquiera, Constitutionalist agent here, made public the following telegram from Constitutionalist headquarters at Juarez: "Benton entered Villa's apartment very unexpectedly, demanding protection for his interests, and bitterly insulting Villa and the Constitutionalist army. Gen. Villa told him that he considered him an enemy to the Constitutionalist cause, and that in order that he might not continue to work against it, he (Villa) was going to pay him the value of his (Benton's) property in the State of Chihuahua."

"Benton became very exasperated at this and drew his revolver, intending to kill the General, but the latter immediately knocked him down, disarmed him and sent him to jail. Benton was afterward tried by a special military tribunal, sentenced to death and duly executed, in accordance with the laws and usages of war."

A telegram from R. N. Dudley, of El Paso, Texas, to Senator Fall, declaring Benton "was murdered like a dog," was read in the Senate to-day at the request of Senator Fall. He also had read a telegram from the El Paso mass meeting.

"I am almost certain Villa did it in person," said the telegram from Dudley. "No evidence that Benton was the aggressor," added the Dudley telegram. "Everything shows it cold-blooded murder. Castillo, a guest of our Government with safety from punishment; Villa boats of his crime. Is there no protection anywhere? El Paso full of rebel officers. The business affairs of the rebellion openly done here. Watchful waiting a failure."

## CASH SUFFICIENT TO KEEP HUERTA IN POWER

New York, Feb. 21.—Adolfo de la Lama, Mexican Minister of Finance, arrived here to-day on the steamship Kronprinzessin Cecilie on his way to Mexico City from Europe, where he obtained funds to meet interest payments due on Government bonds in January and April.

He said he was returning to assist the Huerta Administration. He will not visit Washington.

President Huerta is the only man, the Minister said, who could restore peace in Mexico. His ultimate triumph, he added, was certain. He declined to comment in any way on this country's policy toward Mexico.

He said that, in his opinion, the funds obtained abroad—more than \$30,000,000—would be sufficient to continue Huerta in power indefinitely.